उत्तरांचल में नदियों से रेत और पत्थरों के उठान पर प्रतिबंध

643. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उत्तरांचल (उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र) में पर्वतीय भू-भागों में नदियों द्वारा छोड़े गये रेत और पत्थरें के उठान पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस क्षेत्र के तराई वाले क्षेत्रों में इन कार्यों हेतु ठेके देकर ऐसे उठान की अनुमति दी जाती है;

(ग) क्या सरकार पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों की सुविधा के लिये वहां भी कोई ऐसी ही व्यवस्था करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) से (ख) वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 नियमों तथा दिशानिर्देशों के प्रावधानों के अनुसार वन क्षेत्रों (पहाड़ी तथा मैदानी क्षेत्रों सहित) के भीतर स्थित नदी तलों में से शिला खण्डों, पत्थरों, बजरियों, रेत आदि को निकालने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार की पूर्व सहमति अपेक्षित है।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Destruction of forests in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam

644. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing destruction of forests in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam;

(b) whether poaching of rare species is also going on unabated in those States; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to stop the valuable forest resources and wild animals from destruction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There is no such information that there is growing destruction of forests in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. However, as per State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India, the comparison between 1997 assessment and 1995 assessment indicates a marginal decrease in forest cover of 37 sq.kms. in Bihar and 237 sq.kms. in Assam whereas an increase of 73 sq.kms. of forest area has been noticed in West Bengal.

(b) Although some incidents of poaching of rare species are reported by these states from time to time, there are no reports of unabated poaching of rare species.

(c) Major steps being taken by the Government to stop valuable forest resources and wild animals from destruction are as under:—

1. Afforestation programmes are being undertaken.
2. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests through Joint Forest Management.
3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.
4. In Bihar a centrally sponsored scheme "Modern Forest Fire Control Methods" is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.
5. Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned.
6. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.
7. A network of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. The number of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam are 19 & 2, 16 & 5, 9 & 2 respectively.
8. Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.
9. International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).